



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

For Information Contact Public Affairs
ANN HARWOOD
Telephone: (602) 514-7737
Cell: (602) 809-3683

SEVEN ILLEGAL ALIENS INDICTED FOR ALIEN SMUGGLING AT RIO RICO "STASH HOUSE"

Tucson, Arizona – A federal grand jury here today returned a thirteen-count indictment against Carlos Gonzalez-Rodriguez, 27, of Sonora, Mexico, Carlos Alberto Sanchez-Maldonado, 29, of Puebla, Mexico, Juan Carlos Leon-Ruiz, 26, of Sonora, Mexico, Jose Alfredo Loza-Beltran, 25, of Sonora, Mexico, Gerardo Arreola-Tellechea, 40, of Sonora, Mexico, Manuel Lopez-Verdugo, 22, of Sonora, Mexico, and Alejandro Garcia-Garcia, 27, of Sonora, Mexico, charging them with violating Title 8, U.S. Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I), 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i), that is, Conspiracy to Transport and Harbor Illegal Aliens for Profit, Transportation of Illegal Aliens for Profit, and Harboring Illegal Aliens for Profit.

The indictment alleges that May 30, 2006, U.S. Border Patrol agents discovered 73 illegal aliens from Mexico inside a house located at 1392 Calle Tepic, in Rio Rico, AZ. All of the aliens illegally entered the United States at a place other than a port of entry, and were going to pay various fees to be smuggled into the United States. The indictment charges Carlos Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Gerardo Arreola-Tellechea, Manuel Lopez-Verdugo, and Alejandro Garcia-Garcia, with transporting aliens in overloaded vehicles; and Carlos Alberto Sanchez-Maldonado, Juan Carlos Leon-Ruiz, and Jose Alfredo Loza-Beltran, with serving as "caretakers" by guarding the aliens in their custody in a location that was overcrowded, unsafe, and unsanitary. In addition to the 73 aliens found in the single-family residence, 28 aliens were arrested while being transported by the 4 drivers. All defendants are being held in federal custody, and are scheduled for an arraignment on Thursday, August 3, 2006, at 11:00 a.m., in Tucson federal court.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. A conviction for each count of Conspiracy to Transport and Harbor an Illegal Alien, Transportation of Illegal Aliens for Profit, and Harboring Illegal Aliens for Profit, all carry a maximum penalty of ten years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted the U.S. Border Patrol. The prosecution is being handled by Irene C. Feldman, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1290-TUC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-133(Gonzalez-Rodriguez et.al.)

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